

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-04 /069 W
-----061121 048486 /12

R 060858Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7421
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON ARAB
BOYCOTT

1. THE ONLY OFFICIAL PUBLISHED KUWAITI REACTION SO FAR
TO SECRETARY VANCE'S REMARKS TO SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE
REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. LEGISLATION ON ARAB BOYCOTT OF
ISRAEL WAS FOLLOWING FROM MINISTER FOR LEGAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS, SHEIKH SALMAN AL-DUAIJ. ACCORDING
TO AL SIYASAH AND KUWAIT TIMES OF MARCH 2, AL-DUAIJ
RESPONDED TO NEWSMAN'S QUESTION ABOUT GOK BOYCOTT
PRACTICES BY REITERATING KUWAIT'S COMMITMENT TO THE BOYCOTT
AND SAYING THAT "NOTHING NEW HAS OCCURRED TO CHANGE THE
KUWAITI SITUATION" AND ADDING THAT "THE AMERICAN NEWS IS NEW
TO US AND THE KUWAITI POSITION REMAINS AS AGREED UPON BY THE
ARAB LEAGUE." AL-DUAIJ REPORTEDLY WAS RESPONDING TO A QUESTION
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WHICH ASSUMED EITHER THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAD
ABANDONED THE REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN
(KUWAIT TIMES VERSION) OR THAT THE SAUDIS HAD AGREED TO
ACCEPT POSITIVE CERTIFICATION (AL SIYASAH).

2. ONE PRESS STORY PRESENTED THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS, (WHICH
WERE PRINTED IN FULL ON MARCH 5 IN AL SIYASAH) AS ONE OF THE

OUTCOMES OF HIS RECENT MIDDLE EAST TRIP. THIS SAME REPORT NOTED THAT SOME PREVIOUS ALLUSIONS TO HIS REMARKS IN THE KUWAITI PRESS HAD BEEN INCORRECT. IN ADDITION, AL WATAN (MARCH 2) DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE AS A "SEVEN-POINT PROGRAM TO PROHIBIT US COMPANIES FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE ARAB ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL" BUT NOTED THAT "VANCE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TWO PROPOSED LAWS" (INTRODUCED BY SENATORS PROXMIRE AND STEVENSON) WOULD "PREJUDICE CHANCES OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST" SHOULD THEY BE ADOPTED BY THE USG.

3. COMMENT: SHEIKH SALMAN SHOULD PERHAPS BE FORGIVEN THAT HIS RESPONSE ON THE BOYCOTT ISSUE WAS A NON-SEQUITUR --HE IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN BOYCOTT MATTERS AND PRESUMABLY HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THEM, BUT IT APPEARS THAT HE WAS BUTTON-HOLED BY A SINGLE REPORTER, WHO WRITES FOR BOTH NEWSPAPERS. SALMAN'S REMARKS STRIKE US MOSTLY AS INDICATIVE OF KUWAITI SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES OF BEING "SOFT" ON BOYCOTT MATTERS, RATHER THAN SAYING ANYTHING DEFINITIVE ON KUWAIT'S POSITION ON POSITIVE CERTIFICATION.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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